(c) whether there is any demand from Karnataka for increase in the quota of NSS volunteers; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the aim of the National Service Scheme (NSS) being "Personality Development of Students Youth through Community Service", the NSS volunteers are provided with ample opportunities to participate in various community development programmes and activities through which they can develop their personalities. The NSS volunteers of Karnataka are doing good work in Karnataka.

(b) The allocation for NSS volunteers for Karnataka State for the current year i.e. 2002-03, is 1,80,000.

(c) There is no demand from the Government of Karnataka to increase the strength of NSS volunteers in the State for the year 2003-04.

(d) Does not arise.

Special body to study courses/syllabi

406. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special body in India to study various courses, syllabi, standards and credits and to equate them in relation to various universities in India and abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details of such a body; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider it necessary to form such a body in the context of rapid globalization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Association of Indian Universities (AIU) is a special body

in India to evaluate the courses, syllabi, standards and credits of foreign universities and to equate them in relation to various courses offered by Indian universities.

(b) The AIU is mainly concerned with the recognition of Degrees/ Diplomas awarded by the accredited universities in India and abroad for purpose of admission to higher courses at Indian universities. The AIU is also an implementing agency for the agreements signed under the Cultural Exchange Programme executed between India and other countries in the field of education, in so far as it relates to the recognition of foreign qualifications (except for medicine and allied courses).

(c) Does not arise.

Appalling conditions of primary schools in Bihar

407. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has given directive to the State Government regarding the appalling conditions of primary schools in Bihar;

(b) if so, how the State Government plan to improve the conditions of primary schools;

(c) whether it is due to lack of funds or any other reason which has lead to this deteriorating situation of the primary schools in Bihar; and

(d) what assistance Government plan to give to the State of Bihar to manage the primary schools well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) As per information received from Government of Bihar, no such directive has been issued by Supreme Court.

(d) Government of India has approved an amount of Rs. 28267.23 lakhs for 2002-03 for 37 districts of Bihar under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, of which Government of India's share is Rs. 21200.42 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 7828.20 lakhs has already been released to the Bihar Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad on 22.1.2003 as the 1st instalment. Further under District Primary Education Programme targeting primary education in 20